

# CONNECT



FROM AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION

JUNIOR

## TECHNOLOGY



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EXPLORE NIGER AND  
MEET THE ZARMA PEOPLE

SHARE

08

USING YOUTUBE  
TO SHARE MISSIONARY LIFE

AND

MISSION



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DO YOU HAVE THE  
SKILLS TO TRANSLATE  
THE BIBLE?

# NIGER

PAGES 4 - 5  
TRANSLATING  
THE BIBLE



WHEN YOU SEE A \*  
WE HAVE CHANGED  
A NAME TO KEEP  
PEOPLE SAFE.



## ABOUT NIGER

Population  
**27.1 million**

Unreached  
without Jesus  
**26.6 million**

Main language:  
**French**

93.3% ISLAM

## RELIGIONS IN NIGER

5.1% ETHNIC

1.57% CHRISTIAN



PRINTED ON  
RECYCLED  
PAPER

## Welcome

In this edition we're exploring the country of Niger and learning about the Zarma, a people group of almost five million who really need to hear about Jesus.

Investigate how technology can help spread the gospel and enable people to read the Bible in their own language.

Discover how our missionaries use technology and how new opportunities are opening up with the help of tech.

Have you ever thought about how you can use your tablet or phone for God? We hope this issue will inspire you to think about the possibilities.

*Rosie* our editor  
and wordsmith



# ISSUE...

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CHURCH



## THE CHURCH & TECHNOLOGY

The church hasn't always been keen on using technology. But when the church makes use of new tech it can help people hear about Jesus for the first time!

### PUTTING PEN TO PAPER

The earliest stories of the Bible were spoken until the Egyptians invented papyrus and then parts of the Bible could be written down. In fact, Paul used papyrus to write to the first churches. Although a lot of our writing is now digital, having physical copies of things is still important, like Bibles, important documents, and this magazine you're reading.

### MORE BIBLES FOR MORE PEOPLE

Bibles used to be written out by hand – which could take more than a year! They were so rare that only church leaders were allowed to read them. Then, in 1450, the Gutenberg printing press was invented, which made copying Bibles much quicker. More people could read them and learn about God's love.



### THE ONLINE WORLD

Electricity has led to a lot of the technology you use today: tablets, smart phones and the internet. When COVID forced people to stay at home, lots of churches began to stream their services online, and use social media to connect with more people. Today, we can instantly communicate with someone on the other side of the world!

### WHERE TO NEXT?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is part of our everyday lives: in search engines, smart speakers and computer software. AI can help us to do things quicker and better than we have in the past, but some people are worried about how it will impact our lives. Other technologies have been really helpful in telling people about Jesus, so how can AI be used for mission?

## TECHNOLOGY FACTS



**5.3 BILLION ONLINE**

Nearly two thirds of the world use the internet.

**60% OF UK HOMES**

have a smart speaker.  
Is there one in your house?



**8.5 BILLION SEARCHES**

8.5 billion Google searches are done each day!



**4 HOURS A DAY**

People in Nigeria spend over four hours a day on social media.

**1 IN 3 MEDICS**

1 in 3 medical professionals use computers to help them diagnose patients. How cool is that?





# TRANSLATION STEP BY STEP

## STEP 1. DRAFTING

We have lots of digital resources to help us with this.

## STEP 2. EXEGETICAL\* CHECK

## STEP 3. GROUP CHECKING

Other translators and a qualified translation consultant check it again. We write comments and notes for one another.

## STEP 4. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

The Islanders help with the translation as they know the best way to express the different genres (e.g. history, poetry, law) in their heart language.

## STEP 5. DESIGN

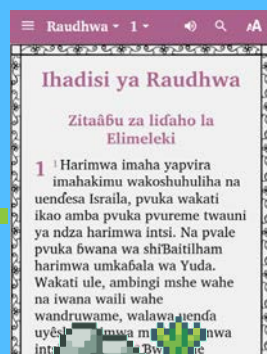
We include Arabic script as well as Roman script, as some people don't understand Roman script.\*\*

## STEP 6. DESIGN CHECK

We ask different local people what colours are appropriate and look best.

## STEP 7. FINISHED PRODUCT

It can be shared in print, audio or in an app. This means that more people can see and hear it.



### Definitions:

\*Exegesis - interpreting/figuring out what the text is saying.

\*\*Jesus in Roman Script  
عیسی in Arabic script

PP

All the images on this page  
were created by real people.

# EXPLORING NIGER



**BEAUTIFUL**



**FACING DIFFICULTIES**

Niger has fields of millet, and vast pastoral lands with shepherds and their herds, the awesome Sahara Desert and the beautiful green Niger river valley. The cities are rapidly growing, but many still live in rural villages stretched across thousands of miles in this enormous country.



**MANY HAVEN'T HEARD**



Life is extremely difficult, with an unstable government, poverty, a growing population, large numbers forced from their homes, a weak health service, and poor access to education. But the people are warm, welcoming, and resourceful. Almost all of them are Muslim, and many will never hear about Jesus, or meet a Christian.

A number of churches were planted by missionaries over 100 years ago, now they are rooted among the indigenous peoples and working hard to share the gospel. They have been joined by other churches and Christians from different parts of West Africa. Small numbers are becoming believers, but there are many who still have not heard.

## PRAY FOR NIGER



Niger had a violent change of leadership in 2023 which resulted in sanctions\* against the country. Pray for peace.



Although there is religious freedom in Niger, pray that God will protect Christians in these difficult times.



Give thanks that some of these sanctions have been lifted and pray for wisdom, that a solution would be found.



Pray for those in Niger who face poverty, that aid will reach those who need it most.

\*Sanctions are punishments given when people don't obey the law

# MEET THE ZARMA

There are about five million Zarma, and they can be found in western parts of Niger, Nigeria, and in other parts of West Africa. They are often considered the same as another people group called the Songhai, but they have different histories, and use different dialects. Although they used to practice traditional animistic religion, the Zarma people converted to Islam in the 11th century.

## HOW ARE THEY BEING REACHED?

Missionaries have been working among the Zarma since the 1930s, but there have been only a few new believers and there is a church struggling with divisions. Although the younger Zarma population isn't as attached to Islam, pressure from their family keeps them from leaving the religion.

## PRAY FOR THE ZARMA

Pray for the mission work that is already taking place among the Zarma.

Pray that the Zarma will be willing to hear about the good news of Jesus.

**Photos:** The woman with a jar by AI, top right by Global Partnership for Education, musician above by Gustave Deghilage, bottom left by Pencils for Kids, Libore, Niger.

Pray for the young people who want to follow Jesus but can't because of their family.

AI



# BROTHERS ABROAD

A JOURNEY YOU SHOULD FOLLOW



[Home](#) [Videos](#) [Community](#)



Obed, 15, and Mozes, 14, are missionary kids (MKs). They were raised by their missionary parents, Cees and Mirjam, alongside their sister Rhodé, 21, and brother, Joas, 23, in Zambia and Malawi, before moving to their parents' home country, the Netherlands, in 2016. Last summer they moved with their parents to Uganda, where they are serving among the Karamojong. They talk to us about the realities of the MK life and making videos for their YouTube channel, Brothers Abroad.

### WHAT BROUGHT YOU BACK TO AFRICA?

**Mozes:** Going back to Africa started as a joke. It would rain outside and our older brother would be like, "Yeah, it's time to go back to Africa". But then it got way more serious and I vividly remember the evening our parents sat us down on the couch and were like, "Is it okay with you guys if we started to think about moving back to Africa?" I was stoked.

**Obed:** So, after we got used to the idea, we thought about it and we came to the conclusion that we did want to go back to the mission field.

**Mozes:** We went to Uganda for a visit to see if we would ever move to Uganda, how it would be. And we met some AIM people here in Uganda, and that's how we got the idea of going with AIM.

### WHY DID YOU START YOUR BROTHERS ABROAD YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

**Obed:** When we were in the Netherlands, it struck me that so many children had no idea what was going on in the missionary world. And I really felt a passion to show them.

**Mozes:** We're showing our supporters a piece of Uganda, not just the landscape, but also the people, the culture, what kind of people they are.

**Obed:** We are trying to give people a picture of what it is to be a missionary, which is living life in a different style than you would do in other circumstances. And on top of that, because it's us teenagers, I think we're giving people a feel of what it is to be a mission kid in Africa.

### WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING MISSIONARY KIDS?

**Mozes:** As an MK, you learn to adapt to different situations and environments easier or quicker







than most people. For example, you're going to a church in Karamoja, you know how to react.

**Obed:** I think we have a broader world experience. And that leads to a deeper knowledge or deeper desire to have an impact in the world. Mozes and I have some really deep discussions about what we want to do in the world.

**Mozes:** I think you also get a strong sense of family and home despite where you live.

**Obed:** But I think one of the biggest challenges is knowing that when the day comes we're going to have to leave and we're also going to leave behind a lot of friends. It feels like you're not able to have a really deep friendship because you feel like you have to leave it behind again.

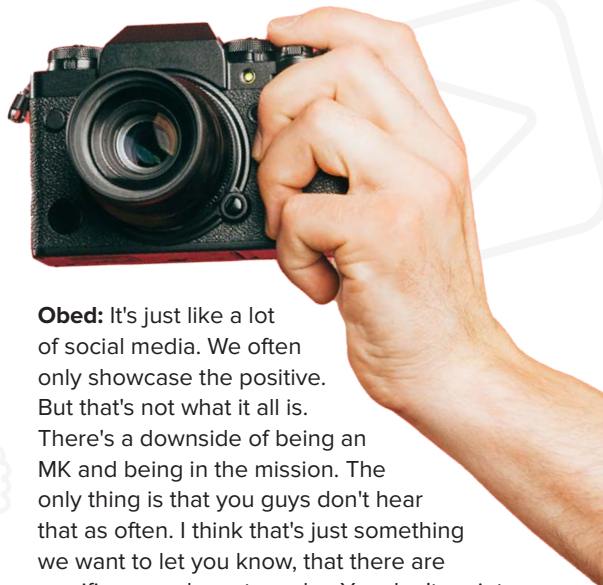
**Mozes:** Exactly. Saying goodbye to family and friends is hard, but the moment you see them again is just so much more valuable.

**"Being a third culture kid and an MK is something really, really special."**



### ARE THERE DIFFICULTIES BEING AN MK?

**Mozes:** You guys, you see the fun parts of being missionaries, like going to Karamoja or moving here in the first place.



**Obed:** It's just like a lot of social media. We often only showcase the positive. But that's not what it all is. There's a downside of being an MK and being in the mission. The only thing is that you guys don't hear that as often. I think that's just something we want to let you know, that there are sacrifices you have to make. You don't go into being a missionary if you think it's going to be all smooth and fun. There are sacrifices. But, you make those sacrifices for the kingdom of God.

Being a third culture kid and an MK is something really, really special. These experiences will shape you for the rest of your life, and in a positive way. The bonds we create are so powerful that even over such long distances and maybe not seeing each other for so long, we're still able to connect with each other.

There will be hard times, but Jesus warned us about that. If we want to build the Kingdom of God, there's going to be sacrifices to make. And I think being a missionary is one of the most beautiful things you can do to build the Kingdom of God.

# CODE BREAKER TRANSLATION

Bible translators have discovered a fragment of the Bible in a language that uses a jumbled up alphabet. Can you use this code to figure out what it says?

## The translation key

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

## The Bible fragment

TLW HL OLEVW GSV DLIOW GSZG SV TZEV SRH LMOB

-----

HLM HL GSZG DSLVEVI YVORVEVH RM SRN DROO MLG

-----

WRV YFG SZEV VGVIMZO ORUV. QLSM 3:16

----- 3:16



When you've translated it, why not send us a letter with the answer and use this code to send your own Bible verse for us to translate.

WELL DONE JOSHUA, YOU HAVE DONE A BRILLIANT JOB!



## READER'S LETTER

Joshua said "I love these things. I've drawn weather on two, a snowman, Christmas, friends, mummy and my sister." Joshua said he likes the way we show you what to do step by step.



WE RECEIVED THIS AWESOME PICTURE OF JOSHUA WITH HIS THANKSGIVING SPINNER.

SEND US A LETTER OR PICTURE BY EMAIL TO **MAILINGS.EU@AIMINT.ORG**

OR WRITE TO AIM, UNIT 3A BEESTON BUSINESS HUB, BEESTON SQUARE, NOTTINGHAM, NG9 2JG

We would love to hear from you



# Make Fari Masa



A tasty treat from Niger made with raw rice, soaked overnight, cooked in a masa pan and served with suya spice or sugar. Here

is a simpler version with a British twist, that you can deep fry or air fry. Yummy!

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp fast action yeast
- 500ml vegetable oil, or an air fryer
- 800g plain flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- 500ml warm water

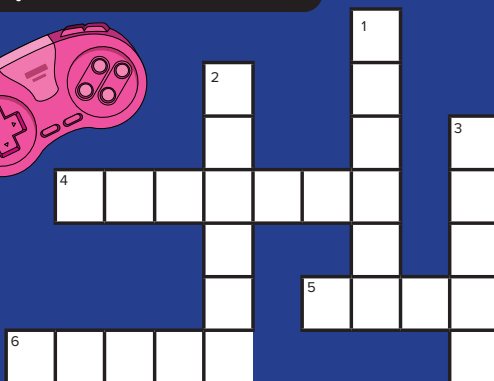
## TO MAKE

- Mix the sugar, yeast and water in a bowl.
- Sift the flour and salt together and add the egg. Mix it all together.
- Put in a warm place to rise for 45 minutes.
- Roll a spoonful of dough into a small ball. Add more flour if it's too sticky.
- **USING A WOK:** Ask an adult to help heat the oil in a wok.
- Carefully place one dough ball at a time into the hot oil.
- Fry until golden brown, turning once.
- Remove with a slotted spoon and allow to drain on paper towels.
- **USING AN AIR FRYER:** Heat to 180°.
- Place a single layer of dough balls in the basket, making sure they aren't touching.
- Cook for 15 minutes, turning them over halfway through. Allow them to cool.

Why not try dipping them into different sauces to see which is your favourite! E.g. chocolate spread, strawberry jam, sugar, lemon, tomato salsa, cheese spread...



## CROSSWORD



### DOWN:

1. Where do Obed and Mozes live?
2. What is grown in the fields of Niger?
3. Arabic and \_\_\_\_ script are included in the design of the Bible translation.

### ACROSS:

4. There are about five \_\_\_\_\_ Zarma.
5. Fari masa is cooked in a \_\_\_\_\_ pan.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ speakers contain artificial intelligence.

## WORD SEARCH

TECHNOLOGY	STORIES	BIBLE	NIGER
MISSION	APP	ZARMA	INTERNET
TRANSLATION	PAPYRUS	YOUTUBE	ELECTRICITY

L	A	J	Y	R	F	P	D	E	Y	S	V	S
I	D	M	E	C	A	F	F	B	G	E	I	E
O	V	G	R	P	T	F	K	U	O	L	D	I
S	I	A	Y	A	J	S	N	T	L	E	O	R
N	T	R	A	A	Z	O	S	U	O	C	H	O
M	U	O	S	Q	I	E	I	O	N	T	D	T
S	K	H	R	S	I	W	V	Y	H	R	U	S
A	W	J	S	I	M	W	B	D	C	I	C	P
P	D	I	T	D	E	Y	E	Q	E	C	F	W
P	M	T	R	A	N	S	L	A	T	I	O	N
O	E	L	B	I	B	J	H	V	D	T	R	I
I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	U	G	Y	P	H

1. Uganda 2. Millet 3. Roman 4. Million 5. Masa 6. Smart

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



# PAUL'S LETTERS



**“I AM ALREADY BEING POURED OUT LIKE A DRINK OFFERING, AND THE TIME FOR MY DEPARTURE IS NEAR. I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.”**

Paul paused writing. His fingers were cramping, and his eyes were sore from squinting through the gloom at the papyrus sheet before him. The chains clanked as he strained against them to continue writing. Luke did his best to hold the papyrus steady for him. They both knew that there was not long before Luke would need to go. There was only so much time his coins would buy from the Roman guards.

**“NOW THERE IS IN STORE FOR ME THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE WILL AWARD TO ME ON THAT DAY – AND NOT ONLY TO ME, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO HAVE LONGED FOR HIS APPEARING.”**

The stylus scratched against the papyrus as Paul wrote his requests to Timothy, his greetings to the others who would be with him. He hoped that Timothy would be able to visit him before it was too late. The light of the oil lamp was almost burned out as he wrote his last words.

**“THE LORD BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT. GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL.”**

He let out a breath as he leaned back against the wall. It was done. There was so much more he wanted to say, but there was no time.

“Out!” A rough voice called through the gloom. Luke embraced the chained man as well as he could. Then he was gone, letter in hand. Paul prayed his words would reach Timothy. One last letter.

Of the 27 books in the New Testament, Paul is responsible for 13 of them. He wrote four of these letters from prison. These letters were sent to various churches and individuals in the ancient world. They had enormous influence on what we believe as Christians and guidance for churches which is still followed today. Although he travelled widely throughout his ministry, these letters allowed him to teach and guide the churches and individuals he couldn't visit. These letters are still read and used in ministry today.

● Give thanks for the ministry of Paul and the impact this has had on Christians over the years.

● Give thanks for the technology that allows us to encourage other Christians e.g. social media, WhatsApp, phone calls, email, video calls.



**AIM** is a missionary organisation that helps churches send people to work among Africa's people and tell them the good news of Jesus Christ.



## SAY HELLO...

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Africa Inland Mission is a company limited by guarantee (04598557), a registered charity in England & Wales (1096364) and Scotland (SC037594)

## SIGN UP ONLINE

If you have not already signed up to receive future issues of **Connect Junior**, sign up online and you will also get this lovely Africa map. →



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